

House Resolution 1903

By: Representative Burkhalter of the 50th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Home Depot cofounder Mr. Bernie Marcus; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Bernie Marcus has spent the last 25 years making a positive impact on the
4 economic and social life of Georgia and improving the lives of others through his
5 philanthropy; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Marcus is originally from New Jersey, where he grew up in a poor section
7 of Newark in the loving and supportive home of his parents, who were Jewish immigrants
8 from Russia; and

9 WHEREAS, his aspirations of becoming a doctor were dashed as a student at Rutgers
10 University when he was told that because of his Jewish heritage, he would need to bribe
11 school administrators in order to gain admission to medical school; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Marcus completed his education at Rutgers, earning a degree in pharmacy,
13 and worked for the next several decades in the retail and manufacturing industries; and

14 WHEREAS, after he and his business associate, Arthur Blank, were fired from a home
15 improvement center, the two men made their dream of opening a chain of warehouse-sized
16 home improvement stores a reality and opened the first two Home Depot stores in Atlanta
17 on June 22, 1979; and

18 WHEREAS, today, Home Depot employs more than 300,000 people in over 1,800 stores
19 located throughout North America; and

20 WHEREAS, a generous philanthropist, Mr. Marcus founded the Israel Democracy Institute
21 in 1991, a nonpartisan think tank dedicated to defending and promoting democracy in Israel;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, in 1991, Mr. Marcus also founded the Marcus Institute, which provides
24 treatment to children suffering from brain related illnesses and disorders, and serves as its
25 chairman of the board and is personally involved in its distribution of grants; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Marcus retired from active participation with Home Depot in 2002, leaving
27 him more time to focus on his community involvement and philanthropy, especially with the
28 Georgia Aquarium, a project he donated \$200 million of his own funds to; and

29 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of
30 this distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body recognize Mr. Bernie Marcus for the amazing economic impact
33 Home Depot has had upon this state and commend his altruistic and generous philanthropic
34 service.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Bernie Marcus.